

**Dr. Max Schur's Diagnosis of Freud's  
Psychopathology:  
"Cain Complex"  
(Brother-Murder Compulsions)**

**note by eric l. miller, 2014**

**"That Freud did not link the theme of intense rivalry with his 'Crime of Cain' is, however, much more pertinent." Dr. Max Schur, Freud's doctor**

Schur's remark immediately above (and later cited below in quoted text, from his authorized biography, *Freud: Living and Dying*) specifies Freud's psychological complex centered on the "theme of intense rivalry." Schur always knew, as his book proves, that Freud himself always identified his first "intense rival" as John Freud. Yet, the reader will notice in the text below, he does not even mention him in the list of those Freud hated and wanted to die. Why?

He speaks of Freud's "intense rivalry" and his "Crime of Cain"—the murder of his brother. What is it that is "much more pertinent" than Freud's Oedipus-Complex, he asks above, and answers himself. The much more pertinent complex Freud had, besides his Oedipus complex was his "Crime of Cain" complex. But, really, who is to say? Freud's "Crime of Oedipus" may have been just as much of a part of reality, to serial killer Freud, as his "Crime of John" was in the first place. Incest with his mother seems a virtual fact, and there is also suggestion (by Freud himself) in the record he murdered his father—be his "father" Jacob or Emanuel. (More on this subject will be forthcoming).

But, it is quite a thing for Freud's doctor who tended Freud's last days, to say that his "Crime of Cain" was far more pertinent than apparently his "Oedipus Complex" Exactly 30 years ago, this was brought to the attention of the public but "special interests" attempted to squelch the truth.

Below from *Passion for Murder: The Homicidal Deeds of Dr. Sigmund Freud*, 1984. pg. 20 (underlines and bold added)

To give the reader a preliminary idea of the degree to which Freud could hate, the words of Freud's physician and biographer, Dr. Max Schur, can suffice:

In terms of wishes, his superstition meant that because he wanted Fliess, Fleischl, his father, his brother Julius, his sister Anna, and anyone else he hated to die, that he would die."<sup>3</sup>

Emphasizing Schur's words, then, Freud had superstitions that because he desired the deaths of persons he hated (e.g. Fliess, Fleischl, his father, his brother Julius, his sister Anna, and anyone else he hated), he himself would die. The phrase "and anyone else he hated to die" gives the true key to the sentence. For with Freud, murderous hatred encompassed an amazing list of persons. The reader should remember that this is not just a list of persons Freud hated, but of those whom he hated and wished dead, sometimes in a mutilated form.

In this book [i.e., *Passion for Murder: The Homicidal Deeds of Dr. Sigmund Freud*], I shall use the term "homicidal mania" in reference to Freud's personality structure and psychic compulsions. This is unavoidable due to the pervasiveness of his condition. Here I must console myself with the fact that Freud's personal physician for the last 10 years of his life, Dr. Schur, himself later a psychoanalyst of considerable reputation, was forced to this same conclusion. Despite his deep veneration and loyalty to Freud, Schur was compelled to assert in his highly credited

work, *Freud: Living and Dying*, that Freud suffered from a deep-rooted "Cain Complex"—which is, after all, a literary allusion to a brother murder complex! In Schur's own words: "That Freud did not link the theme of intense rivalry with his 'Crime of Cain' is, however, much more pertinent."<sup>14</sup>

Schur tellingly does not state that Freud's Crime of Cain was only imagined. In fact, his comment emphasizes that this Crime of Cain was the most pertinent underlying psycho-logical dynamic of Freud's personality structure. The decided implication of Schur's words is that Freud had reason to associate his "Cain Complex" with his murderous feelings toward a childhood rival.

He did, his childhood rival, John Freud, whom he murder in the summer of 1875 in England, while vacationing there. But this was only one of Freud serial murders, though he was claimed by Freud to be his "primal" victim.

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